Impacts and Echoes: The 1969 White House Conference

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"First of all there is a moral imperative...This Nation cannot long continue to live with its conscience if millions of its own people are unable to get an adequate diet."

-President Richard M. Nixon, opening remarks to the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health, December 2, 1969
Legislation and other implementation steps

- 1972 Elderly Nutrition Program
- 1974 Food Stamp Act
- 1975 School Breakfast Program
- 1975 Summer Food Program
- 1975 Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants and Children

- 1969 President Nixon orders GRAS review
- Voluntary open dating and nutrition labeling of foods
  - 1990 Nutrition Labeling and Education Act
- National Nutrition Monitoring System
  - 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act
What wasn’t implemented from the conference recommendations

- High level continued attention
  - Special Assistant to the President
  - Federal Nutrition Commission
  - Administration for Nutrition Science in DHEW
- Transfer of food assistance programs from USDA to DHEW
- National policy on nutrition education
- Food advertisers set aside 15% for PSA’s
Echoes from the conference report

- Guaranteed income
- Obesity
- Food production and nutrition
- Science base for future policy and programs
Today’s Agenda?

- Food insecurity and health disparities
- Diet and health
- Food systems and environmental sustainability
- Science base for policy and programs

Fleischhacker S et al. Strengthening national nutrition research: Rationale and options for a new coordinated federal research effort and authority. AJCN, 2020.
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